

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-14

CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-12 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NASA-02 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 PA-02 DOE-11

CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-15 /167 R

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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT:MARCH 15 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL

INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX

1. STEVEN RATTNER, IN SPECIAL TO NEW YORK TIMES, SAID
SENATOR JACKSON, AT BREAKFAST MEETING TUESDAY WITH REPORT-
ERS, ACCUSED CARTER ADMINISTRATION OF INDECISION AND POOR
HANDLING OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN MATTERS. RATTNER SAID
MOST OF BREAKFAST CONVERSATION CENTERED ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
INCLUDING HORN OF AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST. JACKSON,
RATTNER REPORTED, CONTENDED THAT SENATE WOULD NOT RATIFY
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NEW SALT AGREEMENT THIS YEAR, IN PART, AS RESULT OF SOVIET
ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA. JACKSON SAID NEXT SUCH AGREEMENT
WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE IN U.S. FAVOR, RATTNER REPORTED.

2. BALTIMORE SUN, IN REPORT ON JACKSON'S MEETING WITH
REPORTERS, QUOTED WASHINGTON DEMOCRAT AS SAYING PRESIDENT
CARTER "NEEDS HELP ON BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN MATTERS."

SUN REPORTED THAT JACKSON ALSO SAID "NEW ARMS CONTROL TREATY WITH SOVIET UNION, NOW BEING NEGOTIATED, STOOD NO CHANCE OF EARLY APPROVAL IN SENATE BECAUSE OF GROWING TENSIONS IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS GENERALLY. MOST OF

THOSE TENSIONS HAVE DEVELOPED OVER GROWING SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA. MR. JACKSON DID NOT TRY TO ANTICIPATE SENATE JUDGMENT IN FUTURE, HOWEVER. ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS HAVE ARGUED THAT NEW STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TREATY SHOULD BE TREATED ON ITS OWN MERITS, OTHER ISSUES ASIDE. BUT THEY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT GENERAL CLIMATE INEVITABLY INFLUENCES ATTITUDES ON SPECIFIC ISSUES."

3. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR STAFF CORRESPONDENT ELIZABETH POND, REPORTING FROM BONN, SAID AMERICA'S NATO ALLIES ARE PREPARED TO CONCEDE THAT NEUTRON WARHEAD SHOULD BE USED AS BARGAINING COUNTER IN SALT, BUT THEY DIFFER OVER HOW MUCH IT SHOULD BE USED. "WEST GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTRY SOURCES CONFIRM AMERICAN PRLSS REPORTS THAT U.S. IS CONTEMPLATING PLAYING NEUTRON WARHEAD AGAINST SOVIET SS-20.... AT PRESENT THERE IS NO EQUIVALENT OF SS-20 IN NATO ARSENAL, EVEN IN STATIONARY MISSILE" POND SAID WEST GERMAN MILITARY, ON OTHER HAND, WANT NEUTRON WEAPON TO BE BARGAINED AGAINST USSR'S "THREE-TO-ONE TANK SUPERIORITY IN CENTRAL EUROPE." SHE SAID WEST GERMAN OPPONENTS OF NEUTRON WARHEAD "WOULD BE HAPPY TO UNCLASSIFIED

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SEE WEST FORFEIT WEAPON FOR NOT MORE THAN SOVIET PLEDGE TO REFRAIN FROM DEVELOPING SIMILAR DEVICE." MEANWHILE, POND CONTINUED, "STEADY SOVIET DRUMFIRE AGAINST NEUTRON WARHEAD HAS CONVINCED WEST GERMAN GENERALS AND DIPLOMATS THAT THEY CAN ASK HIGH PRICE OF MOSCOW FOR NOT DEPLOYING IT." SHE SAID PROBLEM IN DECIDING JUST WHAT THIS PRICE SHOULD BE ARISES PARTLY FROM LACK OF SYMMETRY BETWEEN NEUTRON WEAPON AND ANY COUNTERPART SOVIET WEAPON. WEST GERMAN OFFICERS, SHE SAID, CONTEND THAT MORE APPROPRIATE WEAPONS SHOULD BE USED TO COUNTER SO-FAR UNMATCHED SOVIET SS-20'S. THESE MIGHT INCLUDE CRUISE MISSILES "OR, AS RECENT AMERICAN LEAKS HAVE IT, AN EXACT NATO EQUIVALENT OF SS-20," POND EXPLAINED. VANCE

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